

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 06774 191802 Z

52/53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SSO-00 NSCE-00 DPW-01 IO-12 RSR-01 AID-20 /115 W

----- 115528

R 191210 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 419

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6774

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS MILI VS

SUBJECT RF/ PF MORALE DECLINE IN THE POST- CEASEFIRE PERIOD

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON DTD 18 APR FROM CAN THO

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0203

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, VS

SUBJECT: RF/ PF MORALE DECLINES IN THE POST- CEASEFIRE PERIOD

THE PHONG DINH DEPUTY SECTOR COMMANDER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT  
DESERTIONS

AMONG HIS RF/ PF UNITS HAVE BEEN TWO TO THREE TIMES HIGHER THAN  
THE PRE- CEASEFIRE LEVEL. PART OF THE REASON FOR THE JUMP WAS THE  
MORE RIGID REPORTING REQUIREMENTS THAT WENT INTO EFFECT RECENTLY.  
AN AWOL SOLDIER IS NOW REPORTED AS A DESERTER AFTER ONLY 48 HOURS'  
ABSENCE, COMPARED TO FIFTEEN DAYS PREVIOUSLY. IN THE PAST, SOLDIERS  
COULD DISAPPEAR FOR A FEW DAYS AND THEN RETURN TO THEIR UNITS  
EXPECTING MILD DISCIPLINARY ACTION. NOW, HOWEVER, CLASSIFIED AS  
DESERTERS AFTER TWO DAYS' ABSENCE, MANY DO NOT DARE RETURN EVEN  
IF THEY WANT TO. BUT THE DEPUTY ALSO ASSERTED THAT THE INCREASE  
IN DESERTIONS IS MORE THAN A STATISTICAL QUIRK. TROOP MORALE, IN  
HIS OPINION, IS LOWER THAN IT WAS PRIOR TO THE CEASEFIRE,  
BECAUSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE CONTINUED FIGHTING. MAKING  
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MATTERS WORSE IS THAT WHEN FRIENDLY FORCES COME UNDER ATTACK, THEY DO NOT RECEIVE THE SAME LEVEL OF ARTILLERY AND AIR SUPPORT THAT THEY USED TO. THE DEPUTY ADDED THAT THE INCREASED DESERTION RATE IS NOT CONFINED TO PHONG DINH, BUT APPLIES TO OTHER PROVINCES WHERE VC/ NVA INCIDENTS CONTINUE AT A HIGH LEVEL. THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS SIMILAR REPORTS FROM KIEN PHONG, DINH TUONG, AND VINH BINH PROVINCES.

BARNES UNQUOTE  
BUNKER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON06774  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730451/aaaaiwrn.tel  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980202  
**Subject:** RF/ PF MORALE DECLINE IN THE POST- CEASEFIRE PERIOD  
**TAGS:** MILI, VS, MILI  
**To:** EA  
JEC PARIS  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
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